

Lower Prices And More Food Expected Soon

Railroads and Farmers
Bring Large Supplies of
Perishable Goods to City;
Conditions Near Normal

Sugar Reported Scarce

Retail Butchers to Handle
4,000,000 Pounds of
Army Meat Just Released

With the embargo on foodstuffs being lifted by some of the railroads and the possibility of normal railroad and coastwise transportation looming above the food shortage caused by the railroad and harbor strikes, the prospects of more food and a drop in prices looked real yesterday.

There was hardly a railroad that did not bring in some perishable food.

A tour of the downtown markets showed a refreshing supply of provisions. Merchants felt more hopeful.

The New York Central placed 199 cars of food and 15 cars of hogs on the West Side tracks. The Pennsylvania announced it had relieved the emergency on livestock and would bring to New York all that was offered for shipment. About 125 cars of livestock were placed for shipment here and several train loads are now in movement.

Along with these are 150 cars of fruit, all of which are expected to arrive to-day.

Thirty-four cars of provisions arrived yesterday at the Pennsylvania piers on the North River. A ship with 8,000 bags of onions arrived from Egypt.

Butchers to Handle Army Meat

Thomas P. Wallace, president of the Fruit and Produce Association, whose office is at 110 Warren Street, said yesterday that although market conditions were not normal they were not serious. He said the Pennsylvania Railroad had notified him that fifty cars of food would be rushed from Norfolk, Va., and 25 cars would start from places further south.

Arrangements have been made with retail butchers to handle the 4,000,000 pounds of army meat which is expected to be released recently. The butchers are to get 2,000,000 pounds of frozen beef for 10 cents a pound, and it is expected to be for sale to-morrow.

On yesterday's receipts were 4,600 cases of butter and 12,018 cases of eggs. The Dairywomen's League brought 150 tubs of butter 350 miles by truck.

New potatoes were not so cheap—\$30 a barrel. Old potatoes sold for \$15 to \$16 a barrel, and foreign potatoes for \$12 to \$13 a barrel. Lettuce was \$18 a bushel, asparagus \$8.50 a box and spinach \$2.50 a barrel. Merchants said they had difficulty in selling goods because of the high prices.

Milk Shipments Satisfactory

Milk shipments were reported to be satisfactory.

Dr. Sabin, acting director of the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the Health Department, said yesterday that he had received reports from the Pennsylvania and New York State health departments that they expected to have 200 floats of food ready to unload to-morrow.

He said that 65,000 pounds of fresh fish were received by the fish markets yesterday, and that the slaughtering houses had resumed operations on a larger scale than at any other time in the last few days.

Sugar is scarce and expensive. Frank C. Lower, general manager of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, said:

"Recently the estimates of Cuba's production have been reduced 500,000 tons, or more than 10 per cent. At present values we are outbidding the world for supplies, and large purchases have recently been made of Java and other sources for summer and fall delivery that do not generally come to this market. If the American consumer continues willing to do this the necessary supplies will be obtained. The other solution is reduced use, and the decision lies with the consumer."

Texas Oil Man Arrested
In Breach of Promise Suit

Samuel Aron, a wealthy Texas oil man, was arrested yesterday at the Hotel Biltmore by Deputy Sheriff Murphy and Eisenstein in a breach of promise suit brought by Miss Ethel Winter.

Miss Winter demands \$100,000 damages for alleged breach of promise and \$4,000 for money she paid for her betrothal. The defendant was arrested on a \$750 bail with Sheriff Knott.

Miss Winter said that her courtship was short. She was introduced to Mr. Aron in March. He told her, the plaintiff alleged, that he was a powerful man and wanted to marry at once and take her to Texas. She says that at Aron's request she took a suite in the Hotel Manhattan, for which the oil man promised to pay.

On April 2, two days later, says Miss Winter, the defendant notified her that he did not wish to see her again and that he would not marry her.

Reds Concentrating Troops

Polish Airmen Report Mobilization at Zhemerinka, Podolia

WARSAW, Poland, April 17.—Important concentrations of Bolshevik troops at Zhemerinka, Podolia, are reported in a communication issued by the general staff, which says the concentrations were revealed by a reconnaissance of airmen.

"Violent attacks by the enemy, supported by artillery, continue," the communication says. "Our detachments have defeated the 57th Bolshevik Regiment on the River Slaweczna, capturing much war material."

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GOODMAN
616 FIFTH AVENUE

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One Cocktail Shaker Among Unclaimed Goods

City Postoffice to Sell Merchandise Tuesday; Collection Breaks Record

The contents of the greatest collection of unclaimed postal packages in the history of the local Post Office Department will be sold at auction in the New York Postoffice on Tuesday. The merchandise represents the contents of more than 30,000 unclaimed packages that accumulated between Christmas, 1918, and July, 1919. The goods will remain on inspection until the date of sale.

For the proud possessor of a well filled cellar of crime there is one great bargain to be picked. It is lot number 808, listed as "One sterling cocktail shaker."

There are teeth for the toothless, hair for the hairless, radiant bloom for the anaemic, but there is no liquid cheer for the cheerless.

The catalogue reveals the fact that hundreds of packages of extremely carelessness with their second hand clothing in these days of inflated H. C. of L. To those who desire to follow the newest cut there are offered eighteen pairs of overalls.

State Troopers Join in Nassau Gambling Raids

1,000 Spectators Trail Officials in Descent With Crowbar and Ax on Elsinore Club

District Attorney Weeks of Nassau County, with the cooperation of state troopers, raided four alleged gambling resorts yesterday.

One spectacular raid was at the Elsinore Club, an alleged post office in Glen Cove City. Two Assistant District Attorneys and a dozen state troopers ran at top speed to the building from a distance of two blocks, followed by 1,000 spectators.

Broken down with crowbar and ax, a dozen men were arrested and telephones and racing sheets seized. Joseph Campbell was arrested as the proprietor.

George and Edward Krosch were arrested at their brother Chris's place, in Locust Valley, where furnishings similar to those found at the Elsinore Club were seized. Several alleged crap shooters, one of whom is said to have had a revolver, were arrested at the Orchard, in Glen Cove.

Telephones and slips were found also in David Newport's barber shop in Mineola, and in the home of a man said the barber had declared he had political protection and was immune from arrest. Nevertheless, he was arrested.

Neck Broken in a Fall, Victim Is Recovering

Rough Road Is Rebuilt to Prevent Jarring of Coal Operator on Way to the Hospital

(Special Correspondence to The Tribune)

CLAREFIELD, Pa., April 17.—Rebuilding of a road leading from his home to a hospital was necessary to save the life of James Fletcher, Lawrence Township coal operator and farmer, who suffered a broken neck in a fall from an apple tree he was pruning.

Four days ago Fletcher fell ten feet and alighted on the side of his head. Fracture of the cervical vertebra. Examination disclosed that the fracture extended through the structure surrounding the spinal cord, but the cord itself was uninjured. Dr. Fletcher was taken to the hospital and removed to the Clearfield Hospital.

After an examination of Gulch Street, on which Fletcher resided, his physician declared it would mean almost certain death to move the patient over the road, which was extremely rough. The physician believed the jarring would complete the breaking of the patient's neck.

The township supervisors called for volunteer road workers. Virtually every man and woman in the neighborhood responded. The road was dragged and graded, the work being completed late yesterday afternoon.

It was called and the trip to the hospital was made without mishap. At the hospital the patient's neck was incased in a plaster cast and he is expected to recover.

Plot to Weaken Planes For U. S. Army Alleged

Company Defending Suit Over Charges of Faulty Welding of Connecting Rods

Charges of disloyalty to the United States, which, it is alleged, took the form of deliberately weakening airplane parts and refusing to help manufacture them, are made against Otto Metzger, of 1435 President Street, Brooklyn, in the amended answer filed yesterday in the Brooklyn Supreme Court by the Sperry Gyroscopic Company in Metzger's suit for \$14,467.11 he claims due him in commissions.

The amended answer charges Metzger with "knowingly and contrary to good mechanical practice, causing to be bushed and welded connecting rods for use in aeroplanes intended to be operated in war service for the United States and its allies in the recent war against Germany, which bushing and welding plaintiff well knew greatly weakened and impaired the strength of the connecting rods and would endanger the lives of aviators flying in aeroplanes containing such connecting rods."

Letters Refused to Wife

Surrogate Orders Sister-in-Law to Administer Phyfe Estate

Maurice S. Cohen, referee, filed his report with Surrogate Cochran, which decides adversely the application made by Mrs. Grace H. P. Phyfe for letters of administration on the estate of her husband, David S. Phyfe, who left property valued at more than \$400,000.

Mr. Phyfe left no will, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Edith Bell Phyfe, was appointed administratrix.

The widow asked the court to revoke the letters granted to the sister-in-law and substitute her as administratrix. It was alleged in opposition to this move that Mrs. Phyfe, the widow, was not of sound mind. Grace H. P. Phyfe, testified he did not believe Mrs. Phyfe was mentally unbalanced. Other witnesses testified against Mrs. Phyfe.

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Big Rent Strike Prohibited by Hylan's Board

Committee to Move for Eviction of Tenants Creating Disorders; Threats Made by 25,000 in Brownsville

New Trick by Landlords

Increased Rent Receipts Given as Basis for Raise; Protest on Loft Charges

Threats of a rent strike of 25,000 Brownsville tenants on May 1 brought a sharp warning yesterday from Chairman Hilly and Counsel Mayer of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering.

Mr. Hilly declared that nothing was to be gained by such mass tactics, and Mr. Mayer said he had directed to have lawyers in court to represent the committee and move for the immediate eviction of any tenant who joined in creating disorder.

A new menace to renters has been discovered by the committee in a growing practice among landlords of giving receipts for more than the tenant actually paid. Tenants who consider this harmless may be surprised next month to find that the landlord has raised their rent to the amount shown on the receipt, and that he offers the receipt as prima facie evidence that the rent "has not been increased above that of the previous month," which is the wording of the anti-hog law. Another evil will appear a year from now, when under the law the landlord will be entitled to another 25 per cent increase. Again the receipt would be the evidence of the rental for this month, and the higher it is the bigger the increase will be.

Traps for Tricky Landlords

"The committee is keeping a sharp watch for cases of this kind," said Julius Applebaum, associate counsel. "A landlord who tries this sort of thing is committing perjury, and we will do our best to have any who are caught at it sent to the penitentiary. Any tenant who finds this being tried should communicate with the committee."

"Rent strikes militate against the tenants," Chairman Hilly declared in discussing the Brownsville move. "Nothing can be obtained by mass action, rent strikes or anything that will inevitably lead to disorder and violence. There are sufficient and scientifically powerful agencies already to deal with the rent profiteers, and with the new laws they are amply able to see that justice is done."

"The first two weeks' operation of the new laws has shown almost 100 per cent of the cases decided in favor of the tenants and the landlords are much more willing to compromise reasonably. There are probably many cases of perjury on the part of landlords, but these are being dealt with. No excuse remains for any rent strike."

"I have been directed by Chairman Hilly to have an attorney in court to move for the immediate issue of warrants of dispossession wherever tenants resort to disorder and cause trouble," said Leo Kenneth Mayer, counsel to the committee. "The committee is unalterably opposed to such a strike."

"I have heard that there are some tenants who are threatening to take the law into their own hands, and ignore the decisions of the courts or of boards of arbitration," added Mr. Applebaum. "I have found that the courts will not countenance mass action of any kind, and I will personally urge immediate eviction of any tenants who do this."

Strike Captains Named

The rent strike plan came to a head in the organization of the Workingmen's Consumers League in Brownsville Friday night. More than 1,500 tenants attended the meeting, and East New York and Brownsville were divided into 100 districts, with a strike captain for each.

"We already have 15,000 members, and we expect to have 25,000 by May 1," declared Leo Gittin, organizer of the league. "More than 5,000 tenants already are on strike. We do not object to reasonable rent increases, but we are tired of the constant succession of raises from speculative landlords and lessees. We have managed to come to terms with many landlords, and our fight is mainly against the speculators. We will settle all the cases we can—then we will strike."

One of the plans the league intends to use is to have its members make certain that if one is evicted no other tenant takes his flat. An attempt will be made to stabilize all rents in the district for a year.

Representatives of various trade associations having 50,000 members in New York will send a delegation to Albany Tuesday to ask for the extension of the anti-profiteer laws to lofts and office buildings. Bills are already pending to do this.

"The manufacturers not only will be out in force Tuesday," said Harry Uviller, of the American Cloak and Suit Company, who will head the delegation, "but we have received a hearty response from heads of consumers' organizations who see the need of curbing these particular gougers. After all is said and done, the public must pay, and I cannot urge too strongly that the men and women of this city who can possibly make the trip on Tuesday should join us."

Among the associations that will send delegates are the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers, the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association, the Fur Merchants' Association, the Clothing Manufacturers' Association of New York, Wholesale Men's Furnishings Association, Ladies' Hat Manufacturers' Protective Association, Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association, Women's Wear Manufacturers' Association, United Waist League, Sweater and Knitted Goods Manufacturers' Association, Textile Goods Manufacturers' Association, Associated Dress Industries of America, American Fur Dealers' Association, Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association and Eastern Millinery Association.

Plans Laid for Protest

F. H. La Guardia, President of the Board of Aldermen, promised a delegation of the rent protesters that he would do all in his power to assist them with the Legislature. At the next meeting of the board a resolution will be introduced by both the majority and minority leaders demanding action on business, mercantile and manufacturing buildings, that business enterprises are being driven from the city, and demands that the same action be given to business tenants the same rights that it has given to tenants in dwellings.

Questionnaires sent out by the committee show that rent has been raised from 200 to 400 per cent.

"There will be about 1,500 to 2,000 families living under rents in the Bronx," said Walter C. Martin, Superintendent of the Bronx Tenement House Department. "Because of the shortage, I am going to ask the War Department for a supply of canvas sufficient to meet all the needs in the Bronx."

Mayor Hylan yesterday addressed a letter to the Assembly as a body, requesting that the Judiciary Committee be directed to reconvene and reconsider its action on the Jenks traction bills, which were sent to the Committee on Rules Friday, by a vote of six to five in the absence of Assemblyman Theodore Stitt, Republican of Brooklyn, and Assemblyman William S. Evans, Democrat, of the Bronx.

The Mayor referred to the statement in the press that Assemblyman Evans had been told by Assemblyman Louis Martin, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that no action would be taken on the Jenks bills Friday, although he did not attend the meeting, although he was in Albany and could easily have attended and voted against the report of the bills. The Mayor also referred to the reported statement of Assemblyman Stitt that he came to New York Friday with the understanding that the Jenks bills would not be reported, and would have voted against at least one of them if he had been present at the committee meeting.

"It is thus apparent," said the Mayor, that if the statements of these two Assemblymen are correct, the action of the Judiciary Committee against the Jenks bills would have been seven to six and the bills would have died in the full body of the Assembly.

The Mayor also sent a copy of his letter to the Assembly and to the mayors of fourteen cities in the state—Albany, Elmira, Yonkers, Newburg, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Ogdensburg, Binghamton, Utica, Troy, Amsterdam, Poughkeepsie and Kingston—suggesting that if they agreed with him they send a similar letter or telegram to the Assembly.

Boys Who Set Fire to Comrade

At Stake Plead It Was Play

LANCASTER, Ohio, April 17.—That they were "only playing" was the defense set up by Darrel Pool and Kenneth Baker, each eleven years old, when they were arraigned in Juvenile Court to-day charged with attempting to burn Charles Kneller, ten, a newsboy, at the stake early this week. They said they thought the Kneller would be able to stamp out the flames with his feet when they lit him.

Prisoners' Sentence Is Reduced

OSHING, N. Y., April 17.—Communications have just arrived at Sing Sing, it was learned to-day for L. A. Kuchinski and John Koskie, convicted together of burglary in Queens County, which cuts their sentences practically in two. They will be released in a few days.

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City May Seize Disposal Plant In Ash Crisis

Health Officials Called Upon to Decide Whether Refuse Piling Up in the Streets Menaces Health

Cleaners Are Helpless

Critical Situation Due to Refusal to Renew Contract at Increased Price

With tons of ashes and refuse piling up in various parts of the city because of the inability of the Street Cleaning Department to dispose of them with its present inadequate equipment, the situation has reached a point where the Health Department officials have been called upon to decide whether the health of the city is imperiled. Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, and Corporation Counsel O'Brien were in conference on the matter yesterday.

If it is decided that the accumulated refuse had become a menace to public health the police powers of the Health Department will be exercised immediately and the disposal plant of Rogers & Haggerty, on Riker's Island, will be seized and operated by the city. The present critical situation developed from the fact that the city refused to renew the contract with the Rogers & Haggerty firm at the increased price demanded and took upon itself the work of disposal.

Drastic Action Held Necessary

The matter has been a subject of vital consideration by the committee of the whole of the Board of Estimate at several executive sessions within the last few days, and it was determined that drastic action was necessary. When the contract with the Rogers & Haggerty firm was not renewed the city ordered them to "get off" the city-owned property on Riker's Island, but legal technicians said to have the firm removed would be to have prevented an immediate accomplishment of the withdrawal of the disposal contractors, who bought the land from the city.

Land plant from previous contractors, and spent considerable money in improving it. The Rogers & Haggerty Company offered to sell it to the city for \$1,000,000, but Mayor Hylan promptly turned down the offer as excessive.

Comptroller Craig said the city could have purchased the plant from the old contractors for less than \$100,000. The city authorities claim that the plant is not worth within several hundred thousand dollars of the price now asked for it by the contractors, but the apparent lack of proper action in the matter in the past has brought about the present dilemma.

Gradual Deterioration Blamed

Street Cleaning Commissioner MacStay and his associates in the department contend that the inadequacy of the present machinery to handle the situation is not the fault of the present Commissioner, but is the result of gradual deterioration of the equipment, due to the neglect of the city authorities in recent years properly to equip the department.

Commissioner MacStay recently, at the request of the Board of Estimate, prepared a report and estimate of new equipment he considered the department needed. It is expected his report will be presented to the board this week. That the present situation will force the board to appropriate the money required for a fully equipped Street Cleaning Department is the opinion in official quarters.

57 Per Cent of U. S. Ship Crews American Born

Fifty-seven per cent of the personnel on American ships are American-born citizens, according to a statement of Admiral W. S. Benson which was read by Captain Arthur M. McGray, secretary of the Neptune Association, at the final day of the National Marine Show yesterday. The Neptune Society is composed of masters, mates and pilots of New York.

The communication from Admiral Benson was part of a message congratulating the society on its work in building up the merchant marine. By way of comparison Admiral Benson said in 1917 only 10 per cent of the personnel on American ships were American-born.

Officials of the exposition said the first National Marine Show had been a great success, and clearly proved the vast public interest in an American merchant marine. Last night the crowds were so large the doors had to be closed.

City Suspend McGill, Leader Of Lift Strike

Building will receive a surprise tomorrow morning when they find forty-five of the sixty-three cars in the building operated by students of New York University. The students will continue at work, it was announced at the university yesterday, until the strike is over. The management of the building requested student help yesterday and within an hour there were scores of applications at the office of Dean Charles H. Snow, of the College of Engineering.

Picked athletes were given first choice. The men will appear for work early to-morrow morning and will work in shifts.

"In times like this," said Dr. Snow, "when it is the duty of every man and woman in the community to bend every effort toward construction and to make it their personal duty to see that there be no interruption in business efficiency and progress, it is significant and gratifying to note the attitude of the college men."

In the Woolworth and Singer buildings cars continued to be operated by women yesterday. At the former building tenants expressed their appreciation of the women's service by presenting them with flowers—roses, sunflowers and daisies.

The service at the American Express Company Building, 61 Broadway, was normal. It is understood the employees in the building who did not join the walkout will receive an increase in salary to \$30 a week.

All along Park Row the strike had perceptibly affected the elevator service. At 41 Park Row, where all of the regular employees engaged had joined the strike, three employees, a carpenter, a painter and the superintendent, were operating elevators. Later in the day substitutes were obtained in addition to these three. At 130 Nassau Street, where all the operators had quit, the elevators were run by the starter and substitutes. Virtually normal service was maintained.

At the office of the union, 136 Third Avenue, it was announced yesterday that twenty additional employers have agreed to the union's demands. Among the buildings where service has been effected and the men returned to work, it was declared, were 836 Broadway, 32 West Tenth Street, 100 East Nineteenth Street, the estate of John J. Taylor, controlling seven buildings, and others.

McGill announced that more than 1,000 operators joined the union yesterday. The total membership of the union now is more than 19,000, he said. Mr. McGill said that beginning Monday regular picket squads will be sent out from the central meeting place of the strikers, 140 Second Avenue, to all the important buildings.

We will invade the financial and other important districts with an army of pickets on Monday," said McGill. "They will receive strict orders to avoid trouble and violence, but will try to pull out all the men and women now at work. Let the owners and managers of the buildings run their elevators with so-called 'volunteers.' It will be interesting to know how long they can keep it up."

When informed that the elevators in the Equitable Building would be run by college boys on Monday, McGill said, "don't believe that, even educated 'scabs' will help them."

James E. Roach, organizer for the American Federation of Labor, co-operating in the running of the strike, said that the A. F. of L. will back the strikers to the limit.

"This strike," said Roach, "was the backing of the American Federation of Labor. The strikers will receive all the moral and financial support necessary."